

Serial No. 09/885,046
Docket No. T36-133525M/RS

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REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's helpful comments which he provided during a personal interview which was conducted on August 17, 2004. Applicant notes that during the personal interview, the parties discussed claims 1-7 and 32-47, particularly how the claimed invention was novel over the Kern reference. Applicant notes that the claims are amended herein in a manner suggested by the Examiner in order to allow the Application.

Applicant hereby reconfirms the election by Applicant of Species II and/or III for prosecution.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 34, 42 and 45-55 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 2, 4, 32-33, 35-41 and 43-44 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3 and 34 have been amended to further define the claimed invention. Claims 48-55 have been added to claim additional features of the claimed invention.

Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Further, withdrawn claims 35, 36, 38, 43 and 44 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicant notes that claim 34 has been amended to address the Examiner's objection thereto.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3, 5-7, 34, 42 and 45-55, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 8/30/04

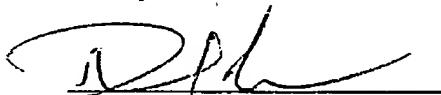


Phillip E. Miller, Esq.
Registration No. 46,060

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment was filed by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Examiner Shouxiang Hu, Group Art Unit # 2811 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 30th day of August, 2004.



Phillip E. Miller
Reg. No. 46,060